in international trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products, conducting market surveys and reimbursing certain WTO admissible cost on account of marketing and transport.

Contract farming

2516. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tobacco farmers are opposing the move to introduce contract farming and are in favour of retaining the present production and auction system;

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) There have been suggestions in passing from certain quarters that contract farming, on a limited scale, particularly where foreign direct investment is concerned, could be allowed in the Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco sector. The Tobacco Growers' Association have urged, however, that the present system be continued. At present, Government do not propose to change this system.

Revival of cement factories

†2517. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sell all cement factories which are running in loss;

(b) if so, the norms prescribed for this purpose; and

(c) if not, whether Government have considered the measures to revive and provide more funds to them, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH):(a) to (c) Cement Corporation of India (CCI) is the only cement company in the Public Sector. CCI has

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.